MANIPUR

Survey has revealed spots of chromite in Nampisha-Kwatha area of Chandel and Ukhrul districts. Work is continued.

Revision of Rates of Royalty on Minerals

524. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the representation of the 'State Government of Gujarat the Central Government had recently constituted Committee for the revision of rates or royaltyon minerals of the State and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to revise upwards the rates of royalty to Gujarat on that basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) The Central Government has not constituted any Committee for revision in the rates of royalty recently However, the Central Government had constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing). The Study Group had members from some of the important mineral producing States including Gujarat. The Study Group also had consultations with the State Governments and the mining industry and considered the question of revision of rates or royally on major minerals in all its aspects within the scope of its terms of reference before submitting its report to the Government. The Study Group submitted its report in November, 1995. Investment promotion, stability of royalty regime, parity with the international rates and revenue gain to the State Governments have been the basic criteria for the revision of the royalty rates. After considering the recommendations of the Study Group, the rates of royalty on major minerals (other than coal and lignite) have already been revised vide Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214(E) dated 11.4.97, copy of which has been laid on the Table of the House on 5.5.1997.

As per provisions of Section 9(3) of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, the royalty rates can not be enhanced more than once during any period of three years and consequently the next revision in the rates of royalty is not due as yet.

Aluminium Plants in Private and Public Sector

525. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Aluminium plants in the country both in public and private sector;

(b) the year-wise performances of those Aluminium units during last three years;

(c) the target set by the units for the production of Aluminium by 2000 A.D.; and

(d) the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) There are two public sector companies i.e. Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) and National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and there are three companies in private sector i.e. Hindustan Aluminium Company Limited (HINDALCO). Indian Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) and Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO). Their production performance in the last three years is given below:-

(Tonnes)

Name	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
NALCO	192288	203823	200162
BALCO	94423	92262	89037
HINDALCO	175398	166272	200304
INDAL	54084	37370	38823
MALCO	15401	22959	25853

(c) and (d) The targets of production set by these aluminium producing companies for the year 2000 A.D. is given below:-

(Totines)

Name	2000 AD
NALCO	230000
BALCO	95000
HINDALCO	242000
INDAL	63000
MALCO	26531

Status of Bailadila Iron Ore Deposits

526. SHRI SH1V CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the latest status of Bailadila Iron Ore deposits leased to a private company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): Based on the Government approval for development of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11 -B in the joint venture. NMDC signed a joint venture agreement with Nippon Denro Ispat Limited (NDIL) now Ispat Industries Ltd. on 10th July, 1995 and a new Joint Venture (JV) Company in the name & style of M/s. Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. (BMDC) was incorporated on 31st July, 1995. Further, NDMC submitted an application on 26.8.1995 to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for transfer of 11-B mining lease in favour of the JV company.

On the recommendation of the Government of Madhya Pradesh which was subject to certain conditions, the Ministry of Mines approved the proposal on 21st March, 1996 subject to observance of the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and also that the State Govt, the proposed joint venture company, i.e. Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. and NMDC should arrive at a uniform and agreed set of conditions for the transfer of'lease and incorporate them in an agreement or any other appropriate legal instrument that may be executed amongst the parties.

Meanwhile, the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta has stayed on the decision to transfer the lease of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11-B in favour of joint venture company on 16.4.96 on a public interest petition filed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, M.Ps. However, the writ petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble High Cour.t on grounds of jurisdiction on 10.5.96. But the operation of the order was stayed by the Hon'ble High Court for a period of three weeks upto 31.5.1996. On a petition by the JV Company against this order, the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court ordered that the interim stay granted by the learned judge will remain suspended till the disposal of the appeal preferred by the Company and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta against the order dismissing the original writ petition on jursidiction grounds. The case was listed for hearing on 8.1.1998 in Calcutta High Court but the same did not come up.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was also filed in the High Court of Delhi in July, 1996 against the transfer of Bailadila iron ore deposit 11-B. The hearing in the case concluded on 22.9.97 and the judgement has been reserved. The case is sub-judice.

North-Eastern Mineral Development Fund

527. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a Task Force for channelising the mineral riches of the North-East region;

(b) if so, the measures recommended by the Task force for creating the North-Eastern Mineral Development Fund; and

(c) whether Government are preparing a blue print for mineral possibilities and ways to exploit them and have identified the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Task Force has recommended that a separate fund for the development of mineral resources in North-Eastern States should be created under the Ministry of Mines named as "North-Eastern Mineral Development Fund" (NEMDF). As per the recommendations, the